

SUFFOLK COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS'
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

423 Griffing Avenue
Riverhead, New York 11901
September 12, 2019

Board of Director's in attendance:

Rob Carpenter, Chairman - Grange/Farm Bureau
Legislator Al Krupski, Legislative District 1 –Treasurer
Legislator Robert Calarco, Legislative District 7
Phil Schmitt – Farm Community Representative
Brian Culhane – Member at Large

Staff and Organizations in attendance:

Corey Humphrey – SWCD District Manager
Ann Marie Calabro – SWCD Staff
Susan Odell-Pepe-SWCD Staff
Sharon Frost – SWCD Staff
Kaitlin Shahinian – SWCD Staff
Edward Compagnone – SWCD Staff
Deborah Aller – S.C. Cornell Cooperative Extension
Benjamin Luskin – NYS Dept. of Ag. & Markets / N.Y.S. S.W.C.C.

- Chairman R. Carpenter called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.
- Chairman R. Carpenter declared a quorum.

- The draft minutes of the July 18, 2019 Board of Directors meeting were reviewed. Motion made by B. Culhane to accept the July 18, 2019 minutes, seconded by Legislator A. Krupski; none opposed; motion carried.
- Welcome Benjamin Luskin from the N.Y.S. Dept. of Ag. & Markets – N.Y.S. Soil & Water Conservation Committee.
- Chairman R. Carpenter introduced the new Soil District Technician Edward M. Compagnone to the Board of Directors.

Treasurer's Report presented by S. Odell-Pepe

- The September 12, 2019 Treasurer's Report was reviewed.
Motion made by Legislator R. Calarco to accept the September 12, 2019 Treasurer's Report as read; seconded by P. Schmitt; none opposed; motion carried.

District Report presented by District Manager C. Humphrey

- Suffolk County 2020 SWC Operating Budget updates were submitted by August 1, 2019.

- The District hiring committee met with the eligible candidates to fill the vacancy of the Soil District Technician. The Board selected and hired Edward M. Compagnone. Edward started with the District on Monday July 22, 2019.
- Soil HELP (Soil Health Equipment Loan Program) continues to gain popularity and providing producers an opportunity to implement on-farm BMP's.
- Agriculture in the Classroom 2020 – Finishing up with our third year of this program, the Ag. in the Classroom grant program has awarded over \$20,000 of funds to start and enhance local school agriculture education programs. The SCSWCD will be applying for the 2020 Capt. Planet Foundation Grant to compliment the current funding for this program. We will be requesting the maximum award of \$25,000. The application opens this September and closes in December 2019.
- Soil Health & Pasture – The District has partnered with American Farmland Trust, Cornell Cooperative Extension and others to host a workshop focused on pasture land management. The event is scheduled to be hosted on September 23, 2019 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Acabonic Farm property in Middle Island.

a) Active Projects/Programs:

- a. Agrochemical Mixing Facilities
- b. Agriculture Non-Point Source Grants (AgNPS)
 - i. Fuel Tank Replacements Rd 20, 21, 22, 24
 - ii. Integrated Pest Management & Sprayer Retrofits Rd 20
 - iii. Nutrient Management Planning Rd. 21
 - iv. Nutrient Recycling (ebb and flow system) Rd. 24
- c. NYSDEC Water Quality Improvement Projects
 - i. 2017 South Harbor Road Remediation
- d. Deer Exclusion Fencing (multiyear)
- e. Agricultural Environmental Planning (A.E.M.)
- f. Resource Conservation Partnership Program (R.C.P.P.)
- g. Environmental Protection Fund (E.P.F.)
- h. Soil Health Testing
- i. Soil Health Equipment Loan Program (Soil H.E.L.P.)
- j. Farm Tire Recycling

b) 4 Hour NYSDEC Endorsed Erosion and Sediment Control (E.S.C.) Training

c) Municipal Assistance

d) Staff Training

- Motion made by Legislator A. Krupski to accept the District Report; seconded by P. Schmitt; none opposed; motion carried.

USDA - NRCS Field Office Report – Liz Camps – in the absence of Liz Camps, A.M. Calabro will present the report

- EQIP Funding is now going to be divided by Field Office. Now Long Island Farmers will be competing amongst each other and not the entire state. Funding available for LI is \$86,000.

Application deadline has not been established yet.

- Liz Camps is going to help train Kaitlin Shahinian and Edward Compagnone from Suffolk County S.W.C.D. in Conservation Planning. They are going to start with vegetable crops and then move to other commodities.
- The NRCS Area Resource Conservationist, Mary Kerstetter, will be visiting the office to review A.M. Calabro's plans, this will help advance Ann Marie's certification.
- Urban Farming - \$150,000 has been allocated for this category. Urban Farming Tour will be given to the State Conservationist to showcase this growing community.
- Chairman R. Carpenter made the recommendation to work with the District Staff to come up with a proposed policy to allow for a more equitable cost share list for NRCS Programs so County Districts and farmers in a higher cost county will be able to compete and implement projects. Currently the cost share list is developed in the least costly county and that standard is shared across all of NYS.

•
Legislative Report presented by Legislator A. Krupski and Legislator R. Calarco

- Constituents contacted the Legislative Office inquiring about the current practices and regulations for composting food waste on Long Island. The legislative office has met and will continue to work with NYSDEC discussing the concerns of food waste on Long Island and to develop guidelines and regulations to best address this issue.
- C.E.Q. had two public hearing for review and comments on the County's Sub-Watershed Plan draft. There is a push to extend the comment period for another 30 days to allow the public, organizations and municipalities to submit their comments regarding the County's Sub-Watershed Plan draft.

C.C.E. - Ag. Stewardship Report presented by Deborah Aller

- Ag. Stewardship Trial Efforts; currently working on the Wood Chip Trial at an orchard on the North Fork of L.I. to try to reduce the herbicide use and using wood chips for weed suppression.
- Attended American Farmland Trust Soil Health Specialist Training on Adaptive, Nutrient Management for Soil Health.
- Partnering with S.C. S.W.C.D. on the Equipment Loan Program.
- On 09/04/2019 C.C.E. held a Soil Health Field Day at L.I. R.E.C. 35 people attended.
- The week of August 26th C.C.E. held Plant Science Day – Topic focused on Soil Health and Bio Char Trials
- Wrapping up the Intergraded Pest Management Scouting Programing
- Soil Health Pasture Workshop being held on 09/23/2019 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Event sponsored by S.C. S.W.C.D., C.C.E. and American Farmland Trust.
- On 10/16/2019 will be speaking to School Teachers on soil health and cover crops in school gardens.
- C.C.E. 2020 Ag. Forum will be held on January 9, 2020 and January 10, 2020.
- Will collaborate with A.M. Calabro from S.C. S.W.C.D. to do the Fall Soil Health Testing

L.I.C.A.P. Representative Update presented by Brian Culhane

- Meeting Cancelled and is being rescheduled. Will forward the information on the new meeting date as it becomes available.

Chairman's Report presented by R. Carpenter

- Attended both Sub- Water Shed public hearings as part of my duties to the C.E.Q. and to be present for the comments and concerns of the public.
- Currently I am working with C.C.E. Ag. Forum Committee we are looking to have Ken Zegel to do a brief presentation on Suffolk County Sub-watersheds Waste water Management Plan.
- Update on the Cover Crop Legislation of East Hampton Town. The public hearing was held and the discussions continue on amending wording of the legislation. Will keep the board updated as more information becomes available.
- Last week met with Nelle Deversa, David Berg and Anthony Leung of NYSDEC who is working with the L.I. Nitrogen Action Plan. They came to speak with Farm Bureau and C.C.E. and are doing a pilot project on the possibility of using sugar kelp as a bio-extraction method for nitrogen and then applying the nitrogen on farm land.

Old Business:

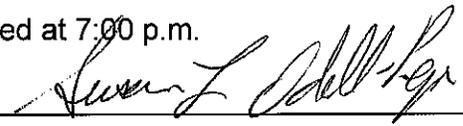
- Motion made by P. Schmitt to use District funds to pay the NYACD Annual dues in the amount of \$1,500 until we can sort out if the County budget line will cover these dues; seconded by B. Culhane; none opposed; motion carried.
- Motion made by Legislator R. Calarco to use District funds to pay the NYACD sponsorship of \$1,000 which covers sending Chairman R. Carpenter as a voting delegate to represent the District (registration, hotel and meals included) and advertising in the NYACD Annual Meeting Journal; seconded by B. Culhane; none opposed; motion carried.

New Business:

- Motion made by Legislator A. Krupski to approve the continuation of the comprehensive Soil Health Testing Services Program through the use of District funds - NYS SWCC Part C Award in the amount of \$15,000; seconded by P. Schmitt; none opposed; motion carried.
- Motion made by B. Culhane to approve the disbursement of District funds – NYS SWCC Part C Award in the amount of \$13,360.00 for the continuation of the Soil Health Equipment Loan Program purchasing additional equipment attachments; seconded by Legislator A. Krupski; none opposed; motion carried.
- Motion made by Legislator R. Calarco to approve the use of District funds – 2020 NYS SWCC Part B Award in the amount of \$6,000 for the Agriculture in the Classroom Program; seconded by P. Schmitt; none opposed; motion carried.

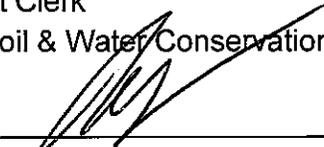
Executive Session: Entered Executive Session at 5:36 p.m.

- Motion made by Chairman R. Carpenter to go into executive session as per section 105 Part F of the open meetings law; seconded by Legislator A. Krupski; none opposed; motion carried.
- 5:50 p.m. adjourned from Executive Session. With no action taken.
- Motion made by B. Culhane to approve a Special Board Meeting to be held on Tuesday 09/17/2019 at 2:30 p.m. at the H. Lee Dennison Bldg., Hauppauge; seconded by Legislator R. Calarco; none opposed; motion carried.
- The Board and staff participated in a training session held by Ben Luskin to satisfy the performance measures of the Board requirements.
- Motion made by P. Schmitt to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.; seconded by B. Culhane; none opposed; motion carried.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes transcribed by 

Date: 10/9/19

Susan L. Odell-Pepe
Principal Account Clerk
Suffolk County Soil & Water Conservation District

Approved by 

Date: 10/9/19

Rob Carpenter – Board of Director - Chairman
Suffolk County Soil & Water Conservation District